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SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL MATERIALS INFORMATION
SYSTEM

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CIRCULAR TELEGRAM

FOR SCIENCE OFFICE OR OFFICER

1. THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (OTA) OF THE U.S. CONGRESS IS SPONSORING AN ASSESSMENT OF A NATIONAL MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM. THIS STUDY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN EVIDENCED IN THE CONGRESS OVER POTENTIAL FUTURE SHORTAGES OF CRITICAL MATERIALS IN THE U.S. AND THE NEED FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON MATERIAL SUPPLIES AND VARIOUS STAGES OF THE PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION CYCLE. ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE FOCUSED ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS WHICH EXIST AT EACH STAGE AMONG MATERIALS, ENERGY, ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND FORECASTS OF FUTURE SUPPLIES AND DEMANDS OF CRITICAL MATERIALS.
2. THE OTA HAS LET A CONTRACT TO THE IBM FEDERAL SYSTEMS DIVISION TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS CONTRACT, IT IS INTENDED THAT IBM SURVEY EXISTING MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEMS, BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD, AND DEVELOP A CONCEPT FOR A NATIONAL MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM. IT IS OTA'S DESIRE TO FIND OUT THE EXPERIENCES AND PLANS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEMS.
3. OTA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS OR GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND NAMES OF OFFICIALS IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WHO MIGHT HELP THEM WITH THIS SURVEY. BASED ON REPLIES OTA WILL FOLLOW UP FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF PLANS AND EXPERIENCES. ADVISE. SISCO

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